activity as per the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times, dated August 18, 1991 under the heading "Indian Steel Bars Contaminated";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in this regard to stop such exports in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir, the Government is aware of the news item that appeared in the press regarding contaminated steel product imported by USA.

(b) As per the informtaion received from the United States Nuclear Regultatory Commission some fencing components imported from India from M/s. Katia Steel Rolling Works in Calcutta were found to be contaminated with Cobalt-60. The preliminary radiological assessment carried out by US NRC had shown that the radioactive contamination found in the fencing material does not pose a significant threat to public health in the United States.

(c) Detailed investigations have been initiated at the Katia Steel Rolling Works by the Department of Atomic Energy. The presently used raw materials the plant show only very low radiation levels. However, it was observed that the scrap generated in the factory during earlier melting had above normal radiation levels. The factory authorities have been instructed not to dispose of this scrap and not to export the finished products till they are cleared by BARC. Further investigations are being carried out to survey all the units which had earlier supplied raw materials including imported scrap to M|s. Katia Steel Rolling Works. On the basis of the results of the above investigations steps would be taken by the Indian regulatory authorities to ensure stricter controls and prevent recurrence.

Poor performance of Core sector

602. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Core Sector which includes Power, Coal, Oils, Shipping & Road Transport etc. has fared badly during the year 1990-91 as compared to 1989-90;

(b) if so, whether Government have analysed the reasons for the poor performance of this sector the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to increase the production during the current year so as to make good the losses suffered last years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir. As per monitoring system of the Deptt. of Progrmme Implementation, in respect of nine infrastructure sectors, namely, Power, Coal, Steel, Cement Fertilizer, Petroleum, Railways, Shipping and Telecommunication, the performance in 1990-91 compared to 1989-90 has been positive except in case of petroleum (crude oil). The details are given in the statement.

(b) In case of crude oil production the performance in 1990-91 was below the level of achievement of 1989-90 due to leakages from certain sub-sea pipelines, reservoir considerations (pressure decline, increase in Gas to Oil Ratio (GOR) and water cut), officers strike, delays in implementation of certain schemes and agitations, bandhs and oil blockades in Assam.

(c) With a view to increase crude oil production, a number of exploration projects are being taken up by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. However, their impact on production of crude oil is likely to be felt only after 3-3 years in view of the gestation period of these projects.

Statement

Performance of core sectors during 1989-90 & 1990-91

Sl. No.	Sector	Unit	Performance during		% growth over
			1989-90	1990-91	1989-90
1	Power	Billion Unit	245.14	264.14	7.8
2	Coal	Million Tonne	200.89	211.73	5.4
3	Steel (Sail—TISCO) Ingot-Steel	Million Tonne	10.60	11.06	4.4
4	Railway: revenue earning freight	Miollin Tonne	309.97	318.41	2.7
5	Shipping:				
	Cargo handled at major ports	Million Tonne	147.28	152.82	3.8
6	Fertiliser:				
	Nitrogen+Phosphate	Million Tonne	8.54	9.05	6.0
7	Cement	Million Tonne	45.78	48.92	6.9
8	Petroleum Crude Oil	Million Tonne	34.08	33.03	—3.1
9	Telecommunication				
	(i) Telephone instrument	(000 Nos)	689.10	777.80	12.9
	(ii) Provision of new telephone connections (Monitored sector)	(000 Nos)	193.95	216.37	11.6
	(iii) Tele-switching equipment	('000 Lines)	745.00	852.60	14.4

Elementary O-level course on computers

603. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of organisations which offer elementary O-level course on computers in English, Hindi and other Indian languages;

(b) what is the mechanism of accreditation of such a course in Hindi and other Indian languages, preparation of instruction material, and training of teachers; and

(c) the number of additional centres likely to be identified during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): 132 private sector computer training institutes have so far been given accreditation for conducting O-level courses. All these institutes are conducting the course in English only.

(b) The Government of India, Department of Electronics vide Resolution, dated 16th August, 1990, have announced a scheme under which private sector